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87 JUNE
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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THE POWER AND THE PRIDE!
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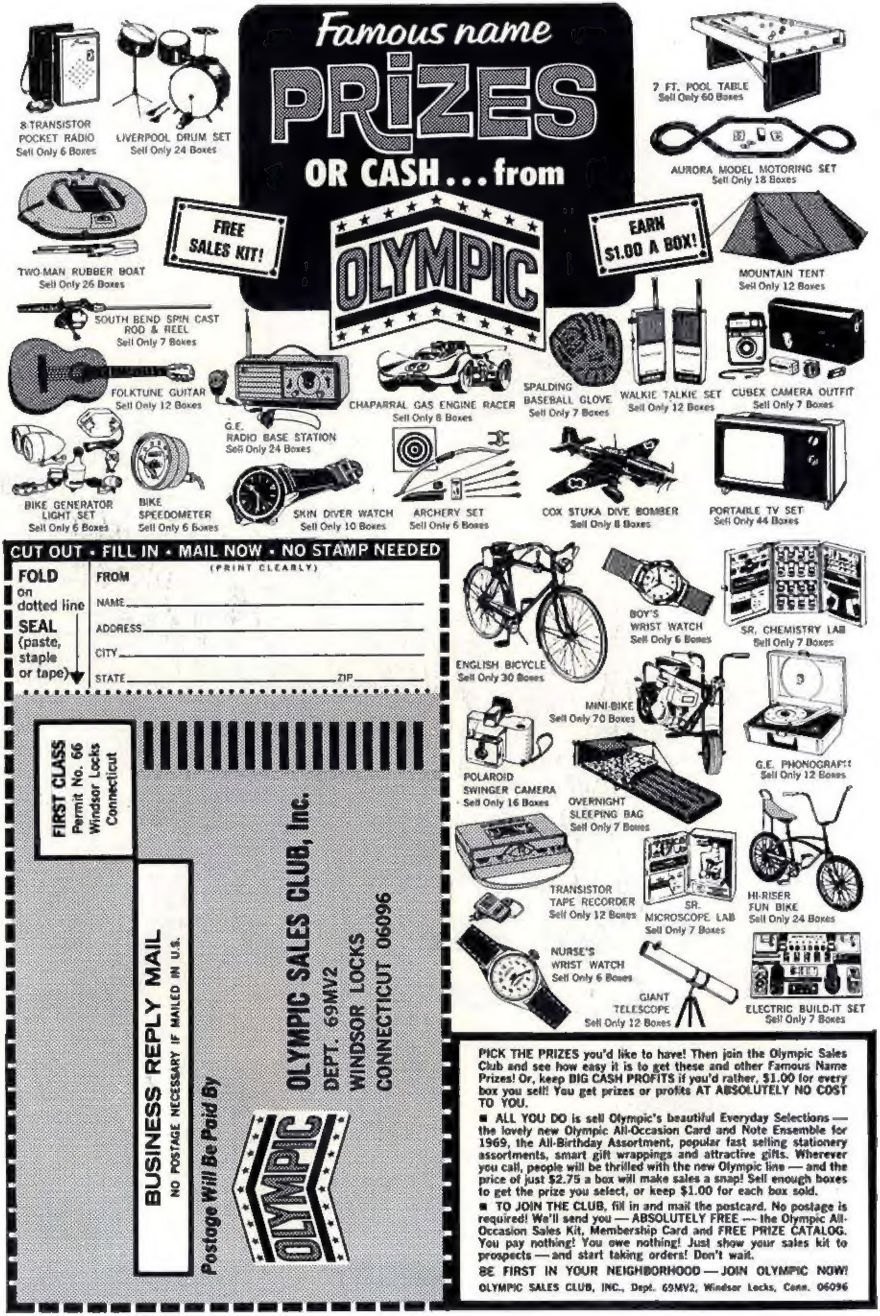

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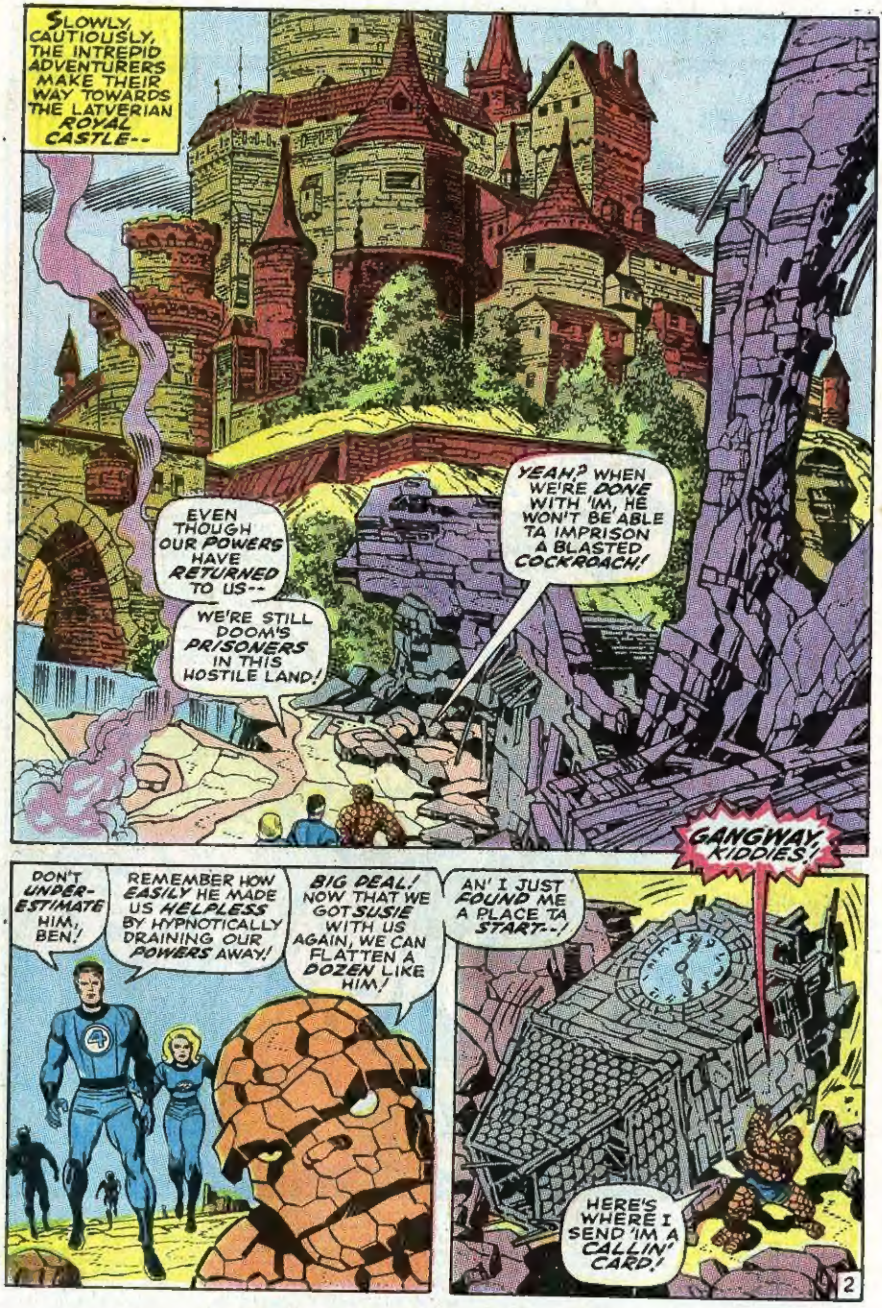
SLOWLY, CAUTIOUSLY, THE INTREPID ADVENTURERS MAKE THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE LATVERIAN ROYAL CASTLE--
EVEN THOUGH OUR POWERS HAVE RETURNED TO US--
WE'RE STILL DOOM'S PRISONERS IN THIS HOSTILE LAND!
YEAH? WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH 'IM, HE WON'T BE ABLE TA IMPRISON A BLASTED COCKROACH!
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE HIM, BEN!
REMEMBER HOW EASILY HE MADE US HELPLESS BY HYPNOTICALLY DRAINING OUR POWERS AWAY!
BIG DEAL! NOW THAT WE GOT SUSIE WITH US AGAIN, WE CAN FLATTEN A DOZEN LIKE HIM!
AN' I JUST FOUND ME A PLACE TA START--!
GANGWAY, KIDDIES!
HERE'S WHERE I SEND 'IM A CALLIN' CARD!
2

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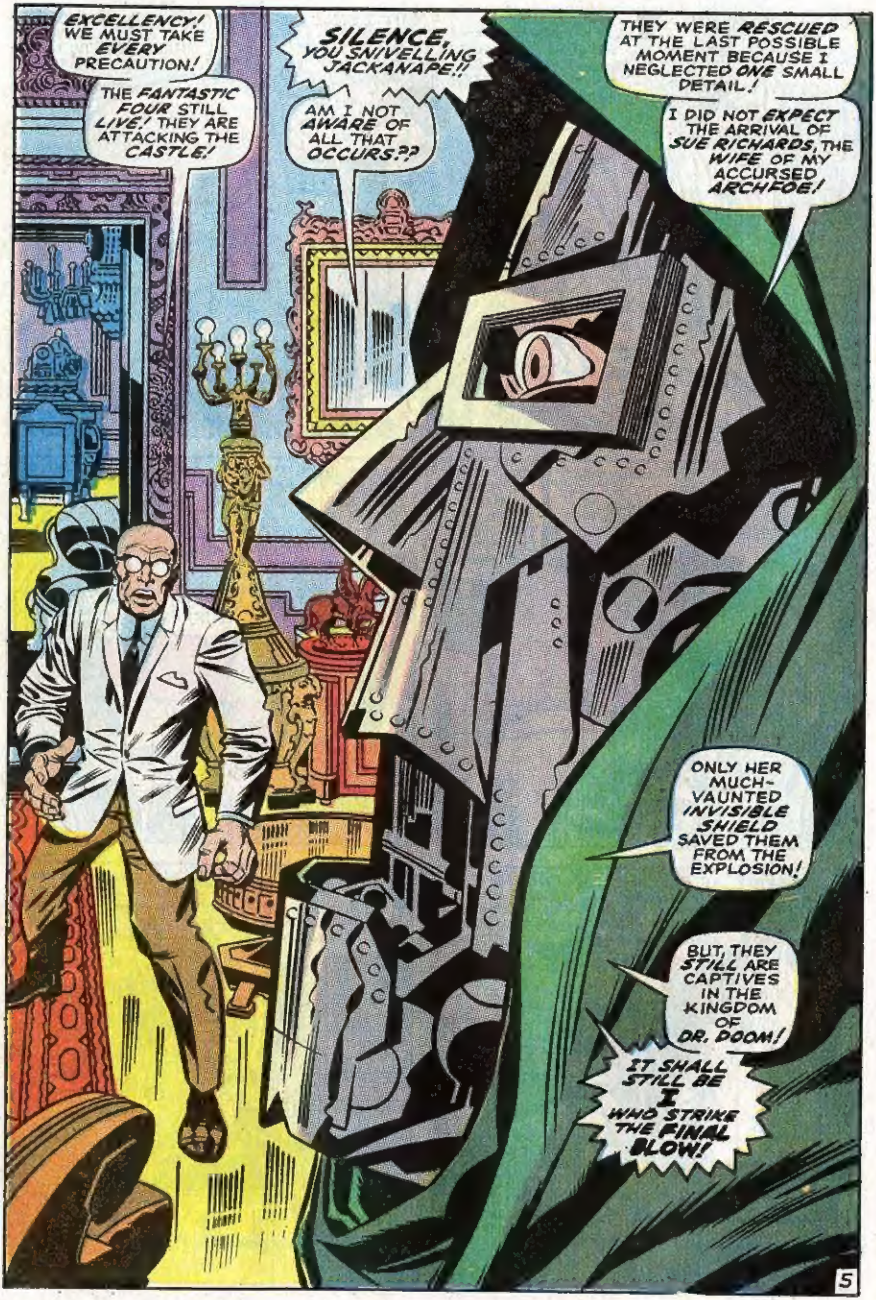
NOW, HAUPTMANN-- DURING THE CONFUSION--PERHAPS WE BOTH MAY ESCAPE!
WEAK NON-ARYAN FOOL!
THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE FROM DR. DOOM!
BUT I SHALL REPORT TO HIM-- I SHALL TELL HIM WHAT YOU PROPOSED!
THAT WILL PROVE MY LOYALTY!
THEN, WHEN ALL THE WORLD IS AT HIS FEET --I SHALL BE GIVEN MY WELL-DESERVED REWARD!
THE OTHERS HERE--THEY SERVE HIM BECAUSE THEY ARE FORCED TO--
BUT YOU--YOU ARE THE EVILEST OF ALL! YOU REVEL IN HIS TYRANNY!
ONLY THE STRONG MAY SURVIVE! THE WEAK DESERVE NO MERCY!
YEARS AGO, I WAS LOYAL TO MY FUEHRER! BUT THEN, WHEN THE THIRD REICH FELL, I FOUND ANOTHER TO SERVE!
BUT, WHY DO I TELL YOU ALL THIS??
YOU ARE ALREADY DESTINED TO DIE!
AS ARE THE OTHERS-- WHOSE LOYALTY IS NOT BEYOND QUESTION!
AND SO I LEAVE YOU, TO PONDER YOUR CERTAIN FATE!
NOTHING IS CERTAIN-- SO LONG AS HOPE IS ALIVE!
WHY CAN THE SPIRIT OF SOME NEVER BE QUENCHED?
BUT, ENOUGH OF SUCH MUSINGS!
I MUST REPORT TO THE MASTER!
4



EXCELLENCY! WE MUST TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION!
THE FANTASTIC FOUR STILL LIVE! THEY ARE ATTACKING THE CASTLE!
SILENCE, YOU SNIVELLING JACKANAPE!!
AM I NOT AWARE OF ALL THAT OCCURS??
THEY WERE RESCUED AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT BECAUSE I NEGLECTED ONE SMALL DETAIL!
I DID NOT EXPECT THE ARRIVAL OF SUE RICHARDS, THE WIFE OF MY ACCURSED ARCHFOE!
ONLY HER MUCH-VAUNTED INVISIBLE SHIELD SAVED THEM FROM THE EXPLOSION!
BUT, THEY STILL ARE CAPTIVES IN THE KINGDOM OF DR. DOOM!
IT SHALL STILL BE I WHO STRIKE THE FINAL BLOW!
5

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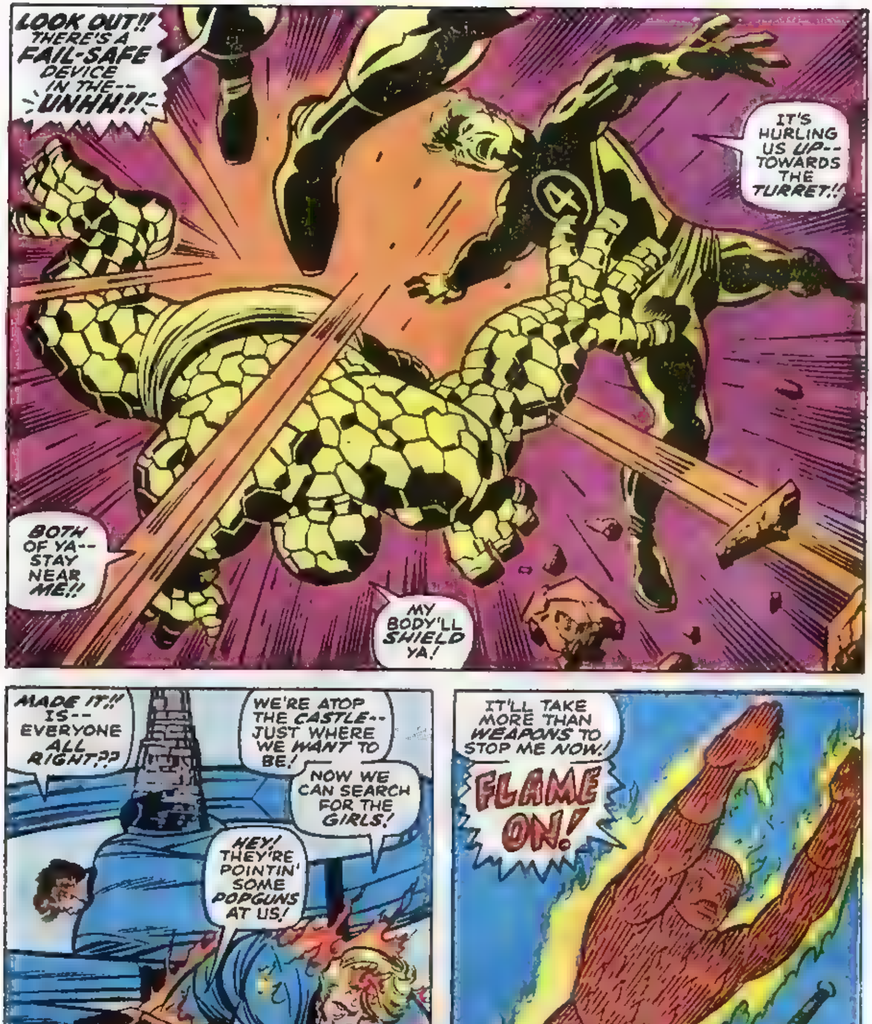
KLAK!
LISTEN! WHAT WAS THAT SOUND??
THERE! THEY ARE IN THE PERFECT POSITION!
THE BRIDGE IS BOOBY-TRAPPED!
THE GIRLS ARE FALLING THRU!
SUE! CRYSTAL!
SPAK!
BELOW US--
THERE'S A SECRET OPENING!
WE'RE PLUNGING DOWN--DRAWN BY A CUSHION OF AIR!
HE'S TOYING WITH US--LIKE A CAT WITH MICE!
DOOM WAS WATCHING ALL THE TIME!
HE DID THIS!
BUT NEVER WERE "MICE" AS POWERFUL, OR AS DETERMINED AS THE TRIO WHO REMAIN ABOVE--
IT'S TAKING TOO LONG! THAT'S SOLID BRICK AND STEEL!
SAVE YOUR FLAME, JOHNNY! LET'S SEE WHAT BEN CAN DO!
HE AINT KEEPIN' US FROM FOLLOWIN' THEM CHICKS!
KRRUNCH!


LOOK OUT!! THERE'S A FAIL-SAFE DEVICE IN THE-- UNHH!!
IT'S HURLING US UP-- TOWARDS THE TURRET!!
BOTH OF YA-- STAY NEAR ME!!
MY BODY'LL SHIELD YA!
MADE IT!! IS-- EVERYONE ALL RIGHT??
WE'RE ATOP THE CASTLE-- JUST WHERE WE WANT TO BE!
NOW WE CAN SEARCH FOR THE GIRLS!
HEY! THEY'RE POINTIN' SOME POPGUNS AT US!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN WEAPONS TO STOP ME NOW!
FLAME ON!
8

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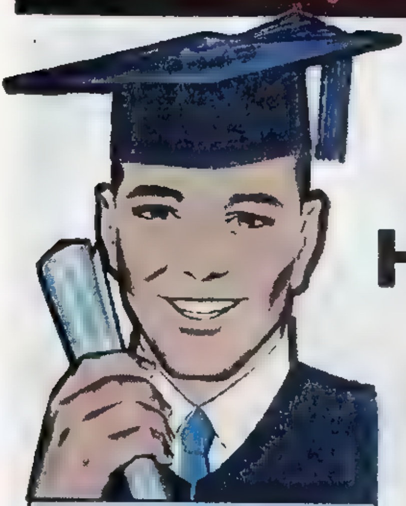
Second chance for high school drop-outs to get a diploma



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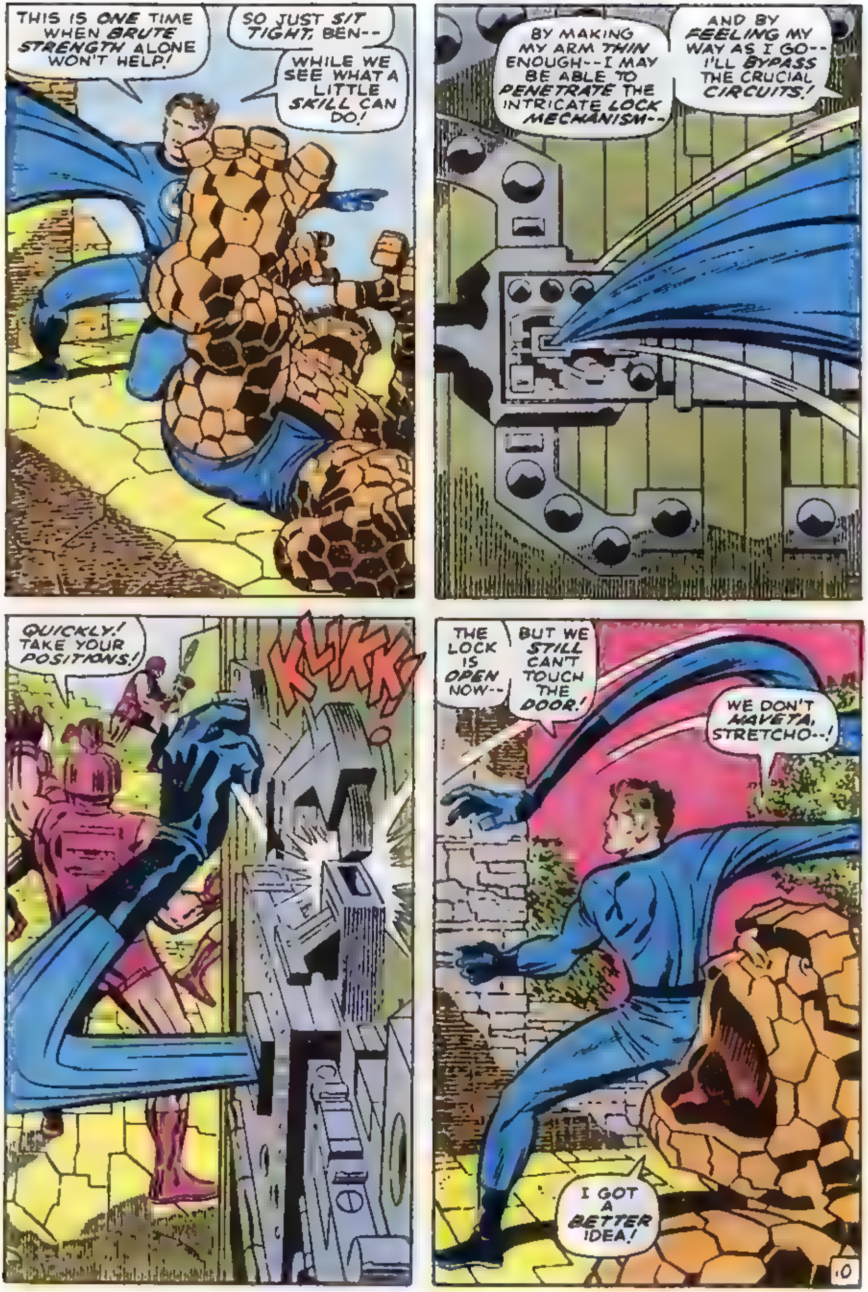
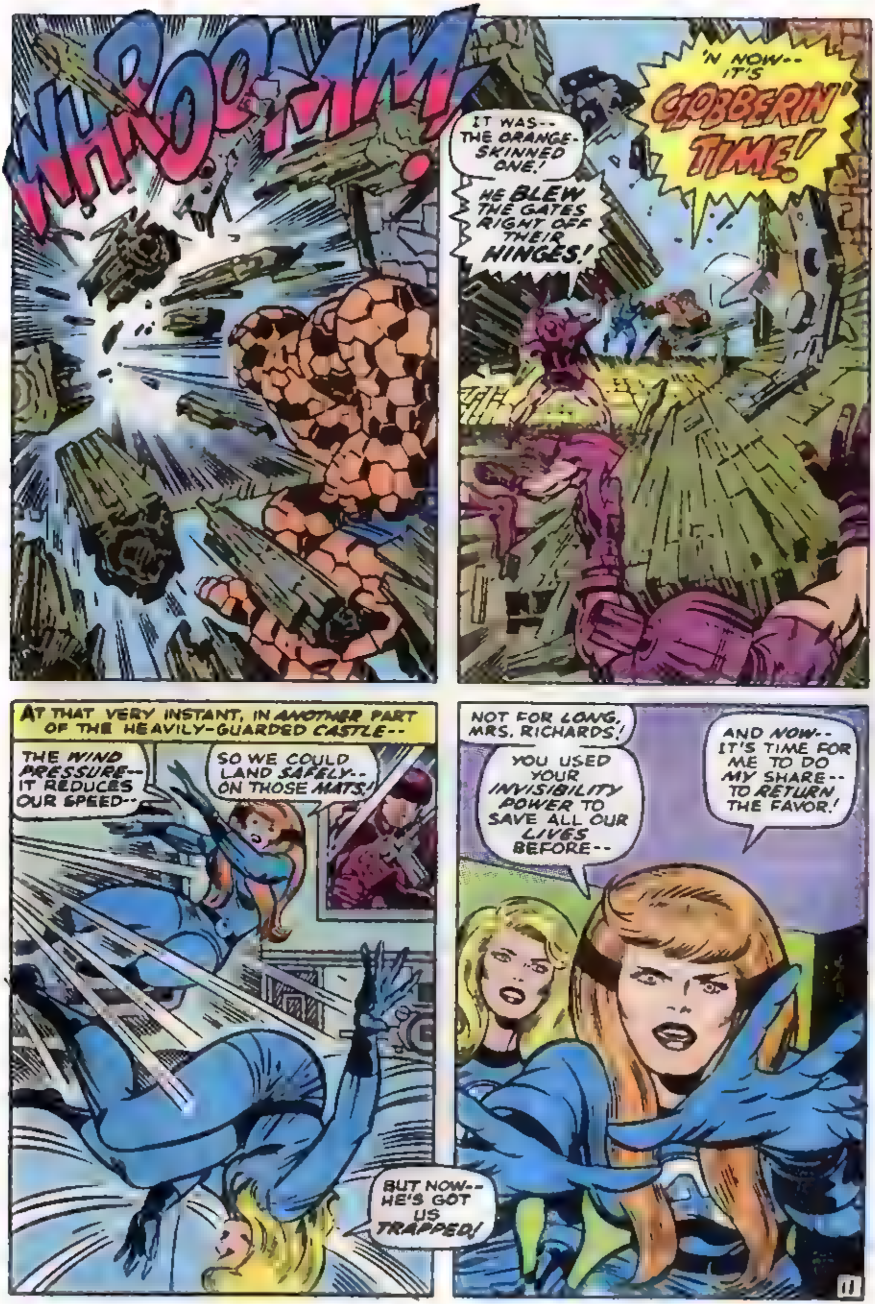
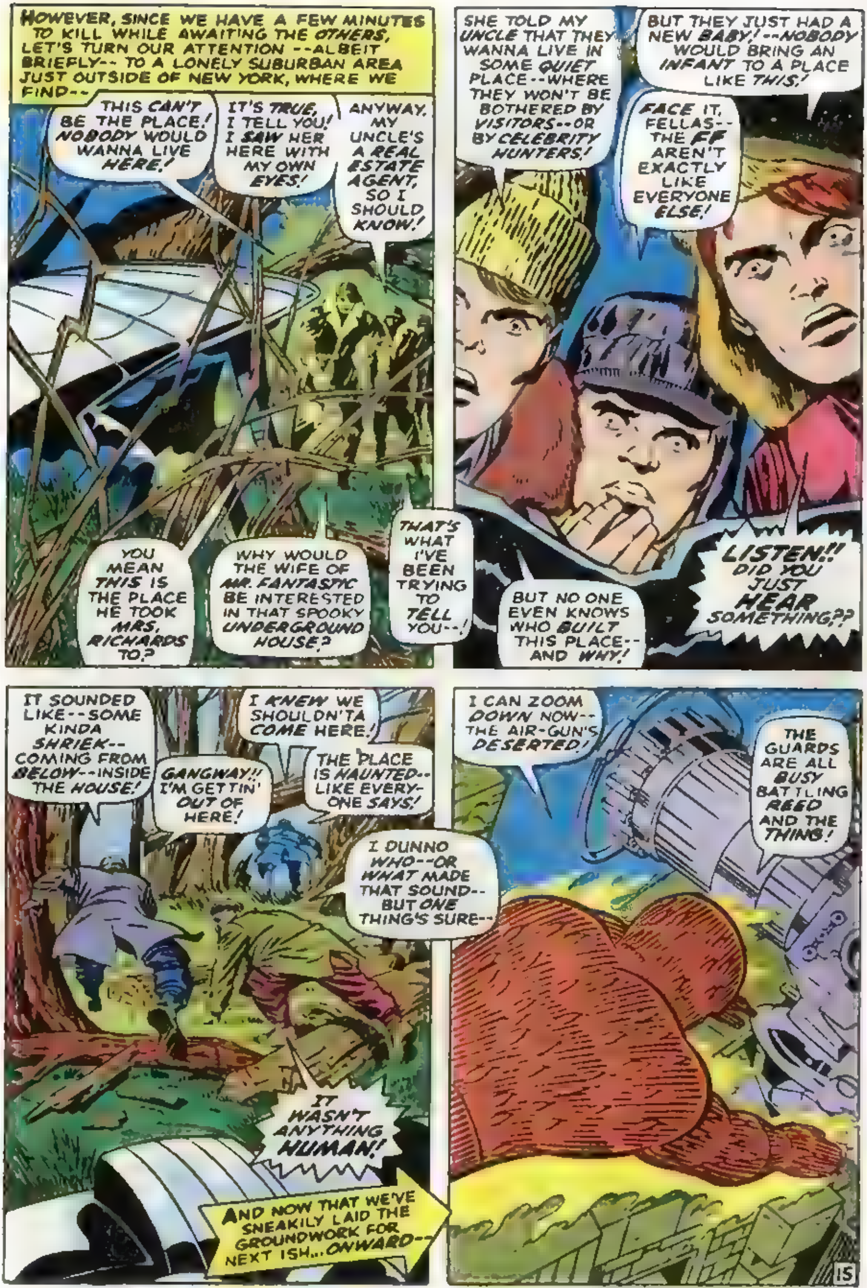

THIS IS ONE TIME WHEN BRUTE STRENGTH ALONE WON'T HELP!
SO JUST SIT TIGHT, BEN--
WHILE WE SEE WHAT A LITTLE SKILL CAN DO!
BY MAKING MY ARM THIN ENOUGH--I MAY BE ABLE TO PENETRATE THE INTRICATE LOCK MECHANISM--
AND BY FEELING MY WAY AS I GO--I'LL BYPASS THE CRUCIAL CIRCUITS!
QUICKLY! TAKE YOUR POSITIONS!
KLIKK!
THE LOCK IS OPEN NOW--
BUT WE STILL CAN'T TOUCH THE DOOR!
WE DON'T HAVETA, STRETCHO--!
I GOT A BETTER IDEA!
10


WHROOMMM!
IT WAS-- THE ORANGE-SKINNED ONE!
HE BLEW THE GATES RIGHT OFF THEIR HINGES!
'N NOW-- IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
AT THAT VERY INSTANT, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE HEAVILY-GUARDED CASTLE--
THE WIND PRESSURE-- IT REDUCES OUR SPEED--
SO WE COULD LAND SAFELY-- ON THOSE MATS!
BUT NOW-- HE'S GOT US TRAPPED!
NOT FOR LONG, MRS. RICHARDS!
YOU USED YOUR INVISIBILITY POWER TO SAVE ALL OUR LIVES BEFORE--
AND NOW-- IT'S TIME FOR ME TO DO MY SHARE-- TO RETURN THE FAVOR!
11

USING THE MOST BASIC ELEMENTAL POWER WHICH I POSSESS--
I CAN SHATTER THE GLASS WINDOW WHICH LEADS TO OUR ESCAPE ROUTE!
ONE OF THE PRISONERS--IS A DEMON!!
SHE HAS SMASHED THE RESTRAINING WINDOW--WITH BUT A GESTURE!
GOOD WORK, CRYSTAL!
NOW--LET'S HEAD FOR THE OTHERS!
I'LL TURN INVISIBLE--JUST IN CASE!
GUARDS!! BREAKOUT--ENTERING NORTH CORRIDOR!
HALT!! THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM DR. DOOM!
GET A GRIP ON YOUR-SELF, SUE!
I'M STRIKING THE GROUND WITH SILENT SONIC WAVES!
BUR-M!
12

MY GUN!! IT HAS FLOWN FROM MY HAND!
I'VE GOT TO DISARM THEM WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
WHAT IS THIS?? I HAVE SIGHTED THE INVISIBLE ONE--!
THEN THIS IS WHY OUR MONARCH ORDERED ONE RIFLEMAN IN EACH UNIT TO CARRY AN INFRA-RED VIEWING SCOPE!
FOLLOW ME--QUICKLY!
OUR ONLY CHANCE IS THRU THE CORRIDOR BEHIND US!
IT SEEMS TO BE UNGUARDED!
DOOM IS NEVER THAT CARELESS!
IF IT'S UNGUARDED--THERE MUST BE A REASON!
AND YET--WE'VE NO OTHER CHOICE!
I CAN HOLD THEM OFF--AT LEAST, FOR A WHILE!
BUT WE HAVE TO FIND THE OTHERS--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THEY'VE SLOWED DOWN!
IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH--THEY'VE GIVEN UP THE CHASE!
BEHIND THESE DOORS--WE'RE SURE TO FIND THE REASON WHY!
CRYSTAL!! LOOK--!!
WE--WE SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!!
13

COME IN, MY PRETTIES! I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
SURELY YOU DO NOT THINK ME SO UNGALLANT AS TO FORGET YOU ARE MY GUESTS!
UNINVITED, PERHAPS-- BUT GUESTS NONETHELESS!
THIS EVENING SHALL DECIDE THE DESTINY WHICH SOON AWAITS US--
AND IT MUST BE CELEBRATED IN A MANNER BEFITTING SO MOMENTOUS AN OCCASION!
SO PRAY BE SEATED--FOR IT IS NEARLY TIME FOR OUR FESTIVITIES TO START!
14



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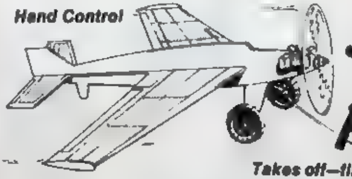
Hand Control



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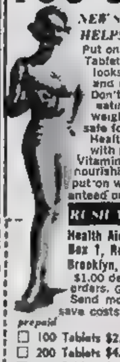

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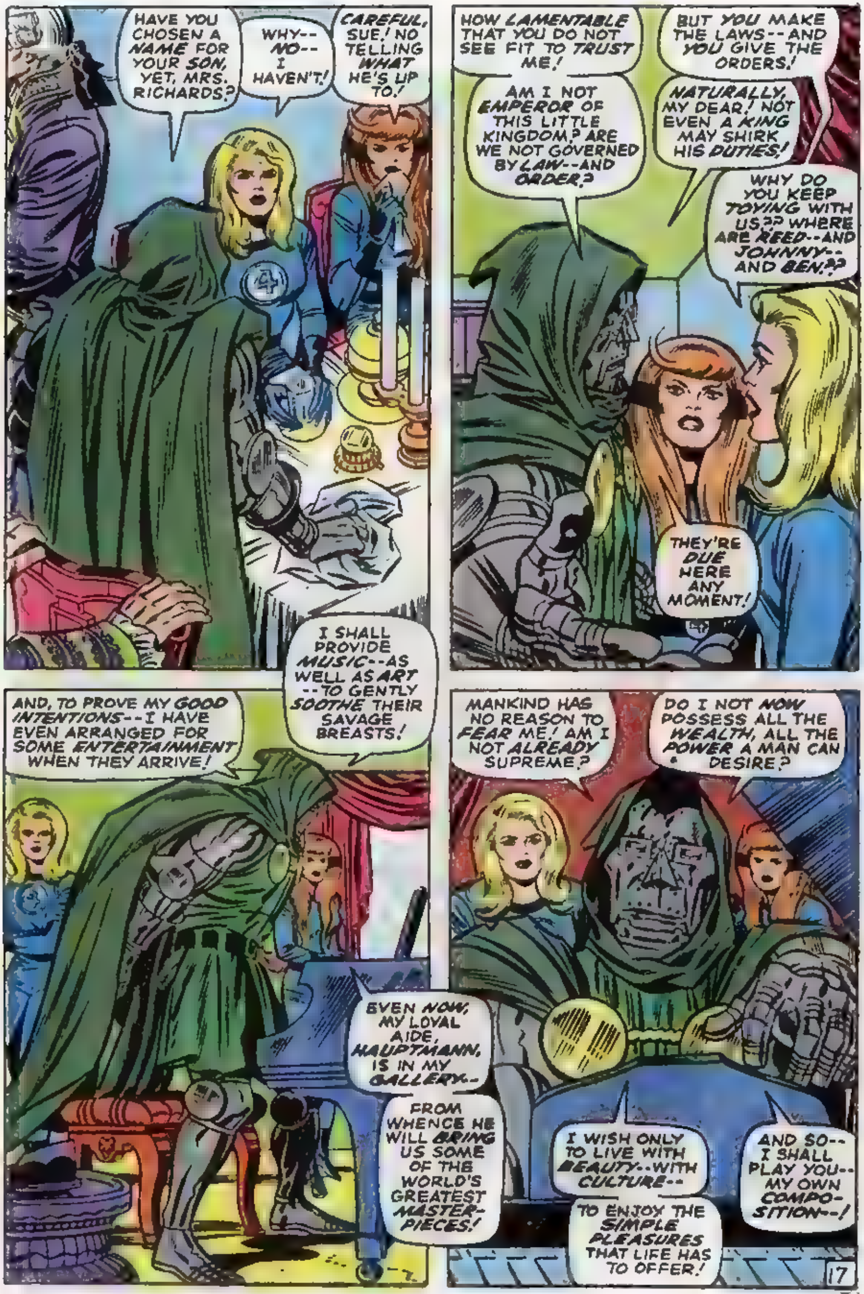
LET'S GO, BEN!! THE GIRLS MUST BE INSIDE!
NUTS! HERE COMES THAT FLAMIN' PARTY POOP!
--JUST WHEN THINGS WUZ GETTIN' INTER-ESTIN'!!
THE TORCH HAS FORMED A MOLTEN BARRIER IN FRONT OF US!
UNTIL IT BURNS ITSELF OUT, WE CANNOT REACH OUR PREY!
SHOOOSH
HEY-- SLOW DOWN, HOTSHOT!! WAIT FER US!
SORRY, BIG BUDDY!
WITH CRYSTAL TRAPPED IN THERE --I DON'T WAIT FOR ANYONE!
DOOM WON'T HAVE HARMED THEM!
HE'LL JUST HOLD THEM AS BAIT!
WE'RE THE ONES HE'S AFTER!
I MUSTA BEEN OUTTA MY SKULL TO GIT INTO THE SUPERHERO BUSINESS!
WE AINT EVEN HAD A BLASTED COFFEE BREAK ALL DAY!
DOOM'S THRONE ROOM IS JUST AHEAD!
BE ON GUARD-- BOTH OF YOU!
EVERY INCH OF THIS CASTLE IS COVERED BY CLOSED CIRCUIT VIEWING DEVICES!
BUT WE'RE STILL CRASHING IN--NO MATTER WHAT!
16


HAVE YOU CHOSEN A NAME FOR YOUR SON, YET, MRS. RICHARDS?
WHY-- NO-- I HAVEN'T!
CAREFUL, SUE! NO TELLING WHAT HE'S UP TO!
HOW LAMENTABLE THAT YOU DO NOT SEE FIT TO TRUST ME!
AM I NOT EMPEROR OF THIS LITTLE KINGDOM? ARE WE NOT GOVERNED BY LAW--AND ORDER?
BUT YOU MAKE THE LAWS--AND YOU GIVE THE ORDERS!
NATURALLY, MY DEAR! NOT EVEN A KING MAY SHIRK HIS DUTIES!
WHY DO YOU KEEP TOYING WITH US?? WHERE ARE REED--AND JOHNNY--AND BEN??
THEY'RE DUE HERE ANY MOMENT!
AND, TO PROVE MY GOOD INTENTIONS--I HAVE EVEN ARRANGED FOR SOME ENTERTAINMENT WHEN THEY ARRIVE!
I SHALL PROVIDE MUSIC--AS WELL AS ART--TO GENTLY SOOTHE THEIR SAVAGE BREASTS!
EVEN NOW, MY LOYAL AIDE, HAUPTMANN, IS IN MY GALLERY--
FROM WHENCE HE WILL BRING US SOME OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST MASTER-PIECES!
MANKIND HAS NO REASON TO FEAR ME! AM I NOT ALREADY SUPREME?
DO I NOT NOW POSSESS ALL THE WEALTH, ALL THE POWER A MAN CAN DESIRE?
I WISH ONLY TO LIVE WITH BEAUTY--WITH CULTURE--
TO ENJOY THE SIMPLE PLEASURES THAT LIFE HAS TO OFFER!
AND SO--I SHALL PLAY YOU--MY OWN COMPO-SITION--!
17

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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Just tell me, in coupon below, the kind of body you want and I'll give it to you SO FAST your friends will be amazed! *"Dynamic-Tension,"* my easy, 15-minute-a-day method, will make your chest and shoulders bulge...arms and legs surge with power...your whole body feel "alive"!

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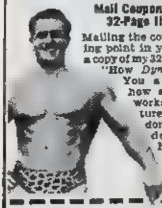

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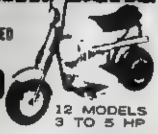

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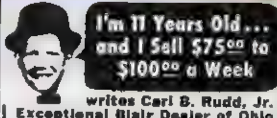

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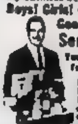

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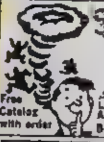

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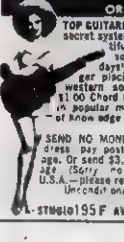

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WHA--?? SOMEONE BEHIND ME!
BUT NONE SHALL SAVE YOU FROM ME NOW!
TAKE COVER! I'LL ATTEND TO HAUPTMANN!
JOHNNY! BEN! YOU TWO FIND THE GIRLS!
RICHARDS!! NOW YOU WILL DIE, AS WELL!
THE GRATITUDE OF DR. DOOM SHALL BE BEYOND MEASURE!
I'LL COVER THIS GALLERY WITH FLAME--NONE SHALL ESCAPE ALIVE!!
THE FOOL! THE ABYSMAL, ARROGANT FOOL!
HE HAS RUINED MY FLAWLESS PLAN!
WHAT ARE A FEW VULNERABLE LIVES--COMPARED TO THE IMMORTAL ART THAT MIGHT BE DESTROYED??
IT MUST NOT HAPPEN!! IT SHALL NOT HAPPEN!
I MUST DIRECT THE HYPER-SOUND--WITH UNERRING ACCURACY!
FOR NOW THERE SHALL BE JUST A SINGLE VICTIM--
THAT NOISE!! THAT EAR-SHATTERING, HIGH-FREQUENCY SONAR-BLAST--!
IT'S COMPLETELY ENVELOPING HAUPTMANN!!
19

HE'S DEAD!
IT WAS DOOM'S DOING!
BUT HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF!
ATTENTION, FANTASTIC FOUR!!
OUR LITTLE TABLEAU HAS REACHED ITS CONCLUSION!
YOU, AND THE FEMALES, WILL BE GIVEN SAFE CONDUCT TO THE BORDER!
IT'S DOOM'S VOICE!
WHAT--DOES HE MEAN?
THE BATTLE HAS ENDED--AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD BEGUN!
I'M AFRAID OUR CONCERT IS OVER--SOMEWHAT SOONER THAN I HAD EXPECTED!
YOU MAY NOW PREPARE--TO LEAVE LATVERIA!
REED--AND THE OTHERS--WHAT ABOUT THEM?
YOU WILL FIND THEM AWAITING YOU--IN THE GREAT HALL!
SUE--HOW DO WE KNOW--THAT WE CAN BELIEVE HIM?
THOUGH DR. DOOM IS CAPABLE OF MANY THINGS--
THE MASTER OF LATVERIA DOES NOT LIE!
AND SO, THE GRIM CHARADE HAS RUN ITS COURSE!
FOR I FIND THAT I AM WEARY OF THE GAME!
THERE HAS BEEN NO GAIN--THERE HAS BEEN NO LOSS!
WE SHALL LIVE TO FIGHT--ANOTHER DAY!
NEXT
MYSTERY ON THE MOOR!
20

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

"AWE-INSPIRING ANNOUNCEMENTS TO YAWN WITH!"

ITEM! Remember the questionnaire which appeared in our mags some months back, asking you to answer various questions about yourselves in order to give us a more accurate understanding of our rabid readers? Well, here are the three U.S. Savings Bond winners, surreptitiously selected by Honest Irv Forbush himself: (1) *Warren L. Parker, APO NY, NY 09111* (2) *David Burzen, San Marco, Cal. 92069* (3) *Barry Morgenroth, Nutley, N. J. 07110.* Congratulations, favored ones — you're heroes! Incidentally, as you probably suspected, the survey proved that the actual readership of our mixed-up Marvel mags consists of the highest percentage of adult believers ever recorded in the history of the medium! Bullpen, take a bow!

ITEM! How about doing us a favor, friend? Next time you make like a pen-pal to us, it'll make our job a zillion times easier if you'll just write, somewhere on the face of the envelope, the name of the mag your letter is referring to. Those are the ones we open first, 'cause we can process them faster. 'Nuff said?

ITEM! We did it again! Yep, we've added another new liltin' luminary to our rollickin' roster of stars! In other words, say hello to Nefarious NEAL ADAMS, who has one foot tentatively planted in our Marvel doorway. We're guessing that your ecstatic comments, when you see the way he illustrated our latest X-MEN bombshell, will transform him into a Marvel madman from head to toe. It isn't only his fantastic artwork that impresses us — but the way he makes it look so easy!

ITEM! GENE (The Dean) COLAN, one of the proud pillars of pencilling proficiency upon which our little empire rests, is about ready to tackle another new feature for us. But he hasn't yet decided which one he wants to do. So how about helping Genial Gene, gang? Which strip would you like to see him lend his awesome artistic talents to? Drop us a line, huh? If we keep him busy reading mail, maybe he'll forget to ask for another raise!

ITEM! In case you've been wondering what happened to Jaunty JIM STERANKO, we bid thee have no fear. Slim Jim is working on a brand-new feature which will shortly be spot-lighted in MARVEL SUPER-HEROES. And, talk about a secret — he hasn't even told US what it is!

ITEM! Here's an announcement we make with mixed emotions. JACK (King) KIRBY and family are leaving New York and moving to California. In fact, by the time you read this, the King will already be settled on the shores of the blue Pacific! But don't panic, pilgrim — he'll still be doing his bit for the Bullpen, same as ever. It's just that he'll be spending most of his extra cabbage on air-mail stamps rather than those king-sized cigars he loves to sport. Actually, it's a terrific deal for the Great One, who certainly deserves his place in the sun; but poor ol' Stan has conniptions every time he thinks of the long distance phone bills he's gonna run up each month when he calls his pantin' partner to discuss their latest plots! Hoo boy!

ITEM! Speaking of staffers who don't quite live within walking distance of Madison Avenue, we thought you might get a kick out of knowing who lives where. So, here goes: Bashful BARRY SMITH probably gets the prize for being most far-out — and we mean literally — since he's recently returned to England, from whence he mails us his goodies each month. Then, in order of furthest distance from the Bullpen, we present: Dapper DAN ADKINS, in far-off Ohio . . . Snarlin' SAM GRAINGER, North Carolina . . . our pal SAL BUSCEMA, Virginia; while Jaunty J. STERANKO and Joltin' J. CRAIG both have their pads in Pennsylvania . . . Torrid TOM SUTTON, Massachusetts . . . JIM (Madman) MOONEY, Connecticut . . . and Valiant VINCE COLLETTA, Jumpin' JOHNNY SEVERIN, and Genial GENE COLAN, all nesting in New Jersey! The rest of us share the same high taxes and traffic jams in New York and Long Island — darn it! (And we never DID find out where Honest Irv holes up!)

Now, before cutting out, we've just gotta tell you about Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY. A few days ago he announced that he, stunning Selma, and the children were finally moving. So the Bullpen started to prepare the usual pandemonious party they throw for such momentous occasions. Then, when everything was set, the Jolly One calmly announced his new destination — a few flights up in the same apartment house! And he wonders why no one's spoken to him since!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

For many years we've been trying, in our own bumbling way, to illustrate that love is a far greater force, a far greater power than hate. Now we don't mean you're expected to go around like a pirouetting Pollyanna, tossing posies at everyone who passes by, but we do want to make a point. Let's consider three men: Buddha, Christ, and Moses . . . men of peace, whose thoughts and deeds have influenced countless millions throughout the ages — and whose presence still is felt in every corner of the earth. Buddha, Christ, and Moses . . . men of good will, men of tolerance, and especially men of love. Now, consider the practitioners of hate who have sullied the pages of history. Who still venerates their words? Where is homage still paid to their memory? What banners still are raised to their cause. The power of love — and the power of hate. Which is most truly enduring? When you tend to despair . . . let the answer sustain you.

Excelsior!

Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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AVENGERS #64: This one starts with a child's nursery rhyme — and ends with a life-and-death showdown in space! It's our assemblers at their battling best! A must!

X-MEN #56: What is . . . The Power? And how does it affect both Cyclops' tormented brother — and the dreaded LIVING MONOLITH? While Neal Adams' awesome artwork will leave you breathless!

DAREDEVIL #52: The brain-blasting BLACK PANTHER — the end of an arch-villain — and the most crucial decision of DD's life! Don't dare miss it!

THOR #164: Thor vs. PLUTO — as only Marvel's masters of magnificent mayhem could present it! And just for good measure — you'll even meet — the mysterious ever-awesome ZEUS!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #114: Wow! Talk about a Marvel bombshell! Drawn with senses-shattering impact by Johnny Romita — featuring A.I.M. and AGENT 13 — like really in action!

HULK #116: The LEADER has given the whole world a few hours to get out! The SUPER-HUMANOID is mowin' 'em down! And now — here comes ol' Green-Skin! It's dynamite!

IRON MAN #14: They call him the NIGHT PHANTOM — but he packs more pulsating power than a horde of shades and specters! Can even Shellhead stand against him?

SUB-MARINER #14: The titanic team-up you thought you'd never see! Namor and the HUMAN TORCH — against the menace of the Mad Thinker! Plus a climax that'll really rock ya!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #14: The ever-invincible IRON MAN! The ever-pernicious PUPPET MASTER! And — Mar-Vell returns to the Kree Galaxy at last! A landmark ish!

SGT. FURY #66: Mission: Capture ADOLF HITLER! And that's not easy — especially when one of your own men has turned traitor! The most shocking war-saga of all!

CAPT. SAVAGE #14: You asked for it — you demanded it — and now you've got it! "Savage's First Mission" — exploding with blockbuster force! Get it — that's an order!

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Fantastic Four (4) Fan Page

Send letters to LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022 N.Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

There's been a lot of talk lately saying that you should dump Sue, and I think it's about time someone came to the lovely lady's defense. One argument is that she is the least-suited member of the FF. Well, I don't know what other Marvelites think, but it seems to me that for someone "unsuited", she's been doing a pretty good job these last few years. Also face it, Sue can't live at the Baxter Building and not be involved with the Fantastic Four, and yet if she doesn't live there, it will mean that she and her husband will spend a great deal of time away from each other. This is a situation I'm sure neither one of them finds appealing. One way out (I'm sure you can find a million better ones, but everybody has to make a no-prize sometime) would be that the new offspring would have powers of his own that would allow him to protect himself while his invisible mama and stretchable papa are out fighting Marvel's Mad Menace of the Month. Anyway you decide it, though, please keep Sue present—'cause a lot of us frantic members of the W.T.S.S.A.* couldn't do without her.

Leah Brooks, 512 West Elk St.
Silver City, N.C. 27344

P.S. *We Think Sue's Super Association

Hope you included *us* in your organization, Leah. Just because the lady in question has been out of the limelight lately . . . we assure you it's a case of gone (temporarily) . . . but not forgotten. Sue will be poppin' up every now and then when you least expect it! Mourn not, faithful ones . . . the Invisible Girl lives!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Well, it was great to see the Inhumans again in FANTASTIC FOUR issues #82 and #83. I hope to see them in their own magazine—provided that you can maintain the old Marvel quality. While you're at it, how 'bout deciding how many zig-zags there are on Black Bolt's costume—it's always different! And what's this with putting Triton in . . . a Green Goblin costume? Check the cover of FF #83—he's got everything but Gobby's hat and pouch! Anyway, Jack's art is as outstanding as ever, although it's always evolving—which I guess is as it should be. My main point in writing is to ask you to cool it with the robot-android or hypnotically created fighting machines our boys have been tangling with for more than a year now. You don't believe me? Issues #70 and #71: the FF is almost defeated by the Mad Thinker's most powerful android, but Reed sends him into the negative zone just in time. A mere three issues later; we find the half-human, half-robot Punisher trying to get the FF to reveal the Surfer's hiding place to Galactus. In the following issue #75, the FF is menaced by android replicas of themselves. In issue #76, Psycho-Man's purple "Indestructible One" tries to make sure that Reed, Ben, and Johnny never leave Sub-Atomica alive. By the way, of all these super-powered robot-androids, not one can speak a word of English—or any other language, for that matter—which doesn't make for very complex characterization. After the Fantastic Four defeat Psycho-Man in his various hypnotic forms in FF #77, they fight the Wizard (a human being at last!), but then run smack into—gasp!—another of the Mad Thinker's androids! Good grief! Well, at least this one can talk. In issue #80, our boys defeat the giant robot Tomazooma—who only speaks a few lines himself; his speech mechanism is knocked out midway through the battle. And then, in issues #82 and #83, they run up against a robot under the command of Maximus who not only is aided by hypnotic suggestion, but also has the incredibly uninspired name of "Zorr"! Come on Stan, you can do better than that. If Doctor Doom in the next issue turns out to be a robot, I've had it! Looking forward to seeing the old doctor again, anyway.

Fred Small, 1103 Kensington Ave.
Plainfield, N.J. 07060

We're sure he's looking forward to seeing you, too, Fred. You can bet the Doc will turn out to be *anything* but a robot! What have you got against robots anyway?? Don't tell us . . . you were scared by one as a kid? Actually though, we dig robots the utmost we like to show our heroes pitted against them, and defeating them — to show that *humanity* will prevail over the *machine*! How does that grab ya?

Dear Stan and Jack,

I am going to point out a minute mistake in FANTASTIC FOUR #82 that a million fans will also point out—so I'll try to make my letter interesting. The mistake will be found on page 13, the last panel. Reed is talking about the remnants of the Great Barrier that the FF destroyed. But, in truth, it was Black Bolt's powerful vocal cords that destroyed the barrier in issue #59!

Richard Choate, 133 Main St.
Medway, Mass 02053

Hooo boy! You're right, Rich! Glad you spotted our deliberate mistake . . . (ahem).

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

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Q.N.S. (QUITE 'NUFF SAYER)—A FORTUNATE FRANTIC ONE WHO'S HAD A LETTER PRINTED

K.O.F. (KEEPER OF THE FLAME)—ONE WHO RECRUITS A NEWCOMER TO MARVEL'S ROLLICKIN' RANKS.

P.M.M. (PERMANENT MARVELITE MAXIMUS)—ANYONE POSSESSING ALL FOUR OF THE OTHER TITLES.

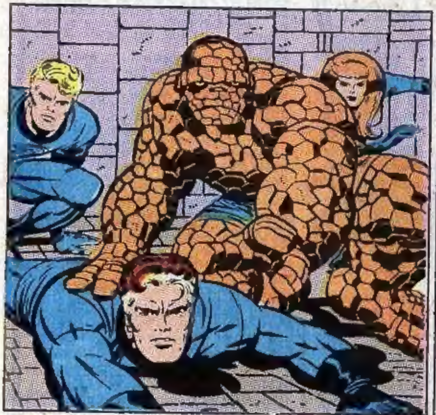
F.F.F. (FEARLESS FRONT FACER)—AN HONORARY TITLE BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

Dear Stan and Jack,

Shortly after my first letter was published in FF #78 with my theory on the Torch's flame: namely, coating his fireproof body and clothing with a "photo-chemical endo-thermal reaction utilizing quasi-volatile gasio-solids and mentally dominated oxygen rich plasmas" (bet you never thought you'd see THAT again)! A brief flurry of controversy stirred Marveldom Assembled, and as one who never leaves well enough alone, I return, unconquered. It has been suggested that the Torch and X-Man Iceman become their respective elements, fire and ice. Skipping over the problems of making such creatures live, what happens when some baddy douses Johnny or leaves Bobby in the oven too long? They return to normal. If the fire-and-ice theory were true, I know a certain comics group that would be looking for two new superheroes. While on subjects pyric and glacial, I have a plot suggestion. How about teaming up these temperature twins? Extreme cold and heat, alternately applied, should break down anything but one of Galactus' photon forcefields. By the way, next time that you have Brightly Shining fly through a jet, please make certain that it's a RAMjet (a type of reaction propulsion with an exceeding lack of internal obstacles). Let's keep the flaws in my theory to a minimum. New problem: "Baby Boy" Richards, Junior, or whatever you wind up calling him, is a mutant. Mommy and Daddy were dosed with sufficient roentgens to keep Professor Xavier's ghost from walking on that count (likewise Lee and Kirby were dosed with sufficient brains not to pass up a golden opportunity). As I see it, the time is ripe for another stunning two-part-story-in-one-month bonanza like the epoch-making battle between the X-Men and the Avengers. You could start off with Cerebro picking up Junior's brainwave pattern, along with the gadgets used by Magneto, Doc Doom, and/or the Wizard. Lead the plot into some wild team-ups such as: Torch-Iceman, Beast-Thing, Invisible Girl-Marvel Girl-Crystal, Cyclops-Reed-Angel! 'Til Junior trips over his long white beard, MAKE MINE MARVEL!

Tom Zmudzinski, 463 Cumberland-B, Univ. of Maryland
College Park, Md.

Merely a lifetime pledge, eh, Tom? What *more* could we ask? A way to answer your letter . . . that's what! You seem to have got it taped . . . we don't know whether to agree or disagree with you! Did you ever think it'd happen? Your blushin' Bullpen . . . struck dumb!



Dear Stan and Jack,

I have just finished reading FF #82, and it was great! I can't wait to see the Inhumans strike back at Maximus! How come Black Bolt couldn't break the force field? After all, he controls molecules (I think he does?!!) and he could cause them to dissipate. I like the "Alpha Primitives" new uniforms, since the ones in FF #47 were kind of dull. Zorr is a good idea also, so why not keep him around as a watchdog of Attilan after Maximus is overthrown (I hope he is!!). Could you give a full-pager of Attilan, showing places of importance as you did with Asgard in the THOR SPECIAL?

Michael Rehak, 945 Beaver Bank Cr.
Baltimore, Md. 21204

We could, Mike, but we don't know if we *should*! Can you imagine . . . stopping in the middle of an all-action epic for a guided tour of Attilan?! Besides, we haven't seen the place too well ourselves!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I just love your comics, especially the FANTASTIC FOUR. But I have a couple of questions . . . Can't Reed and Sue ever kiss each other? In issue #73, at the end, they almost did, but not quite. Oh sure, they hug each other a lot (almost in every issue) but a hug can't compare with a kiss! If Johnny and Crystal kiss, why shouldn't Reed and Sue? Another question: does Johnny have to say "Flame on" when he wants to flame on? Or does he just say it because he wants to?

Mara Gomez, 408 E. 138th St.
New York, N.Y. 10454

Haven't you ever heard a karate chopper shout *"Haaaah!"*? Huh? It's a release of pent-up emotion! Why did the Marines shout "Gung Ho!"? Exactly the same reason! Another thing: Johnny wills his flame-on by mind power. So, if he accompanies his thought with a forceful *shout* . . . it makes the thought itself more forceful, thus he flames on quicker! Howzat, Mara?

Dear Stan and Jack,

In FF #83, on page 11, you show Sue Richards trying to decide on a name for her baby. Perhaps I can help. Look back to FF #32, "Death of a Hero", where Sue's and Johnny's father has been kidnapped by the Skrulls. When he is returned to them, he has been mined to kill anyone who comes near him. Rather than do that, he falls to the floor, taking the full force of the blast. What I'm getting at in a sort of round-about way is: why not name the baby "Franklin" after Dr. Franklin Storm?

Sgt. Michael L. Kuhne, AF 19820744, P.O.B. 12000
Keesler AFB, Miss. 39534

Franklin Richards . . . Franklin Richards . . . you're right, sarge; it does have a kind of distinguished ring about it. It really is about time we started thinking of the baby's name . . . we'll just haveta see what everybody *else* thinks before the climactic christening!

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